# FACT SHEET

**Brownfield Cleanup Program**

**Red Hook Smith Street**
**627 Smith Street**
**Brooklyn, NY 11231**

**SITE No. C224163**
**NYSDEC REGION 2**

**May 2021**

## Remedy Proposed for Brownfield Site Contamination; Public Comment Period Announced

The public is invited to comment on a proposed remedy being reviewed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), in consultation with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), to address contamination related to the Red Hook Smith Street site ("site") located at 627 Smith Street, Brooklyn, NY. Please see the map for the site location.

Based on the findings of the investigation, NYSDEC in consultation with NYSDOH has determined that the site poses a significant threat to public health or the environment. This decision is based on the nature of the existing contaminants identified at the site; the potential for off-site migration of contaminants in the groundwater; and the potential for human exposure to site-related contaminants via soil vapors. To address this threat, NYSDEC has developed the proposed remedy summarized below.

**How to Comment:** NYSDEC is accepting written comments about the proposed plan, called a "Draft Remedial Action Work Plan (RAWP)" for 45 days, from **May 19 through July 5, 2021**.

- Access the RAWP and other project documents online through the DECinfo Locator: https://www.dec.ny.gov/data/DecDocs/C224163/.
- Documents also are available at the location(s) identified at left under "Where to Find Information."
- Please submit comments to the NYSDEC project manager listed under Project-Related Questions in the "Who to Contact" area at left.

**Draft Remedial Work Plan:** The proposed commercial use remedy consists of:

- Excavation and off-site disposal of contaminated soil to depth of one foot below the water table, which is approximately 6 feet below ground surface, over the central portion of the site;
- Installing sealed-seam, steel sheet pile walls to a depth of 17 feet below ground surface. The walls will be tied into an existing cutoff wall along the Gowanus Canal to form a subsurface barrier system around the entire site perimeter;
- Collecting and analyzing end-point soil samples and post-remedial groundwater samples to evaluate the effectiveness of the remedy;
- Placement of a cover system, including a demarcation layer, over areas without asphalt or concrete, to address contamination remaining above commercial use soil cleanup objectives (SCOs);
- Importing clean material that meets the established SCOs for use as backfill;

## Where to Find Information

Access project documents through the DECinfo Locator https://www.dec.ny.gov/data/DecDocs/C224163/ and at these location(s):

*(*Repositories may be temporarily unavailable due to COVID-19 precautions. If you cannot access the online repository, please contact the NYSDEC project manager listed below for assistance)*

**Brooklyn Public Library – Central Library**
10 Grand Army Plaza
Brooklyn, NY 11238
(718) 230-2100

**Brooklyn Community Board 6**
250 Baltic Street
Brooklyn, NY 11201
(718) 643-3027

**Red Hook Library**
7 Wolcott Street
Brooklyn, NY 11231
(718) 935-0203

## Who to Contact

Comments and questions are welcome and should be directed as follows:

**Project-Related Questions**
Charles Post, Project Manager
NYSDEC
625 Broadway, 12th Floor
Albany, NY 12233
(518) 402-9793
charles.post@dec.ny.gov

**Project-Related Health Questions**
Stephanie Selmer
NYSDOH
Bureau of Environmental Exposure Investigation
Empire State Plaza, Corning Tower
Albany, NY 12237
(518) 402-7860
beei@health.ny.gov

**For more information about New York's Brownfield Cleanup Program, visit:**
www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8450.html

# BROWNFIELD CLEANUP PROGRAM

- Implementing a Health and Safety Plan (HASP) and Community Air Monitoring Plan (CAMP) during all ground-intrusive activities;
- Implementation of a Site Management Plan (SMP) to ensure the remedy remains effective; and
- Recording of an Environmental Easement to ensure proper use of the site.

The proposed remedy was developed by Red Hook Developers Holding, LLC ("applicant(s)") after performing a detailed investigation of the site under New York's Brownfield Cleanup Program (BCP).

**Next Steps:** NYSDEC will consider public comments, revise the cleanup plan as necessary, and issue a final Decision Document. NYSDOH must concur with the proposed remedy. After approval, the proposed remedy becomes the selected remedy. The applicant(s) may then design and perform the cleanup action to address the site contamination, with oversight by NYSDEC and NYSDOH.

NYSDEC will keep the public informed throughout the investigation and cleanup of the site.

**Site Description:** The 1.96-acre site is located in Brooklyn, with approximately 750-linear feet of waterfront along the Gowanus Canal at the mouth of the Gowanus Bay. The site was formerly developed with a one-story warehouse that was demolished in early 2018. An asphalt-paved parking lot and concrete slabs and foundations associated with the former warehouse currently remain. The site was historically occupied by various industrial and manufacturing uses including production of coal tar-based roofing materials (1900s to 1938) and cargo storage and shipping (1900s to 1990s). The site was recently utilized as a cargo storage facility until circa 2007.

**Interim Remedial Measures:** An expedited cleanup, called an "Interim Remedial Measure" (IRM), is conducted at a site when a source of contamination or exposure pathway (the way in which a person may contact contamination) can be effectively addressed without extensive investigation and evaluation. The following IRM is ongoing at the site:

- Installation of a sealed-seam, steel sheet pile cutoff wall along the entire waterfront along the Gowanus Canal to a depth of 66 feet. The wall serves as a containment wall against contamination migration to the Gowanus Canal;
- Installation of recovery wells inland of the new wall to intercept and collect any remaining coal tar and hydrocarbon product before reaching the wall; and
- Excavation and off-site disposal of soil generated during construction.

Additional site details, including environmental and health assessment summaries, are available on NYSDEC's Environmental Site Remediation Database (by entering the site ID, C224163) at: https://www.dec.ny.gov/cfmx/extapps/derexternal/index.cfm?pageid=3

**Summary of the Investigation:** The primary contaminants of concern at the site are coal tar and its associated hydrocarbon-related volatile organic compounds (VOCs), semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs) which are present site-wide in soil and groundwater. Coal tar and creosote saturated soil and fill was identified in the central and western portion of the site. Petroleum product has been identified floating on top of the groundwater table in some of the monitoring wells.

**Brownfield Cleanup Program:** New York's Brownfield Cleanup Program (BCP) encourages the voluntary cleanup of contaminated properties known as "brownfields" so that they can be reused and redeveloped. These uses may include recreation, housing, business or other uses. A brownfield site is any real property where a contaminant is present at levels exceeding the soil cleanup objectives or other health-based or environmental standards, criteria or guidance adopted by NYSDEC that are applicable based on the reasonably anticipated use of the property, in accordance with applicable regulations.

For more information about the BCP, visit: https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8450.html

***We encourage you to share this fact sheet with neighbors and tenants, and/or post this fact sheet in a prominent area of your building for others to see.***

**Stay Informed With DEC Delivers**
Sign up to receive site updates by email: www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/61092.html

Note: Please disregard if you already have signed up and received this fact sheet electronically.

**DECinfo Locator**
Interactive map to access DEC documents and public data about the environmental quality of specific sites: https://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/109457.html

# BROWNFIELD CLEANUP PROGRAM

**Site Location**